HAIL COLUMBIA. By Mrs. Fawcett

The Common Cause
OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] *Societies and Branches in the Union* **561.** [NON-PARTY.

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[*The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.*]

Notes and News.

The Representation of the People Bill.

The Representation of the People Bill has now entered on the Report stage. At the time of writing, the debates on that stage have not yet been begun. Sir George Cave has given notice of a number of Government amendments, of which the following are the most important:

1. A person is to be disqualified from being registered if that person has, for 30 days or more in the aggregate during the qualifying period, been maintained as an inmate of any prison, lunatic asylum, or workhouse. The disqualification is not to affect the right of the wife of any such person to be registered.

2. The Treasury may frame a scale of registration expenses, and may alter the scale as and when they think fit.

3. At a General Election all polls are to be held on one day. The returning officer of any constituency, however, may postpone the poll if, owing to bad weather or some exceptional circumstance, a proper poll cannot take place on the required day.

4. The proxy voting scheme is to be applied to pilots as well as merchant seamen and fishermen.

5. A brother or sister of an elector can be appointed proxy only if of full age.

6. A registration officer is to keep a list, open to inspection, of absent voters entitled to vote by proxy in any constituency, and of the persons entitled to vote as proxies.

An amendment will also be moved to restore the Service Franchise; and there will be many others!

The Municipal Vote for Married Women.

From the Women's Suffragists' point of view, however, infinitely the most important of the amendments which will be proposed during the Report stage of the Bills is the one extending the local government vote to the five million married women who, as things stand, will have the Parliamentary but not the municipal vote. This amendment is down in the names of Mr. Duncan Millar, Mr. Acland, Mr. Arnold Ward, Major Hills, Mr. Stephen Gwynne, Mr. Ronald McNeill, and Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck.

In support of it an influential deputation of distinguished women has been introduced by Mrs. Fawcett to the Home Secretary, who has also received a memorial signed by a number of men of weight and standing. The full list of those who took part in the deputation, and of those who signed the memorial, will be found on page 384, under Headquarter Notes.

The Education Bill.

The Executive of the National Union of Teachers has made strong representations to the Cabinet, Mr. Fisher, and members of Parliament with regard to the urgent need of proceeding at once with the consideration of the educational proposals made in the Education Bill.

The Workers' Educational Association is also protesting against delay, and is urging all organisations interested in child welfare to pass resolutions demanding that the Government shall proceed immediately with educational legislation, to organise public meetings, and to write to the Press.

A New Tribunal on Women's Wages.

The Minister of Munitions has found it necessary to reconstitute the Special Arbitration Tribunal on Women's Wages, in view of the increasing volume and importance of its work. All differences as to rates of wages, hours of labour, or conditions of employments of women and girls engaged on munitions work, are referable to the Tribunal, which also advises the Minister, when invited by him, as to what directions he shall give in matters upon which it conducts arbitration.

The Hon. Alexander Shaw, M.P., has accepted the Minister's invitation to become Chairman of the Tribunal, whose other members are Mr. J. C. Smith, Mr. C. Kenrick, Mr. A. Clegg, Mr. G. Ryder, Miss S. Lawrence, Mrs. Streatfield, and Mr. F. C. Button (advisory member).

Women Workers in Politics.

The National Federation of Women Workers have just decided, by a ballot under the Trade Union Act (1913), to become affiliated with the Labour Party. The result was 14,171 votes in favour of affiliation, and 531 against; the total number of votes cast out of a membership of 40,000—especially as the ballot was taken in an air-raid week—showing that woman workers are taking a keen interest in politics. This is the first time such a ballot has been taken in a Union composed of women only. Affiliation gives the right of running a separate candidate for Parliament.

Women and Child Welfare.

One would imagine that any body of men would be only too glad to hand over to women the responsibilities for supervising maternity and child welfare work. Not so our brave Town Councillors. The majority of Councils are keeping this task in the hands of their Public Health Committees, which consist entirely of elected members, so that most have no woman member serving on them at all. The Local Government Board sent out a recommendation some time ago that sub-committees should be appointed to deal with maternity and child welfare, and women co-opted to help with the work, but so far the advice has been for the most part ignored. If the amendment for extending the Municipal Franchise to wives of occupiers is passed, it is likely that this state of things will soon be altered.

Purely Academic.

A week or two ago a South London social worker was reporting to a group of friends a speech she had just heard from a well-known feminist about a certain greatly-needed reform. With eager approval she detailed the various practical suggestions made by the speaker, but presently her animation faded, and she brought her report to a close by saying, "Then she went off on to a purely academic point about the relations between men and women." She had no use for anything purely academic; it seemed to her like nothing. Surrounded by war, disease, and poverty, she wanted practical suggestions for alleviating the sufferings of those injured by these things; she wanted, as she would have put it, something real. "Are not," she would have argued, "war, disease and poverty real? Let us, then meet them like common-sense people, with realities, with practicalities." Early in the war the soldiers wanted shirts, so leisured women said, "I cannot cut out or work a sewing-machine, but I must make shirts"; or, again, there were wounded, so "The only person I ever nursed was my late husband in his last illness but I will go to the Front and nurse"; and later on there was a bother about potatoes, and we heard on all hands, "I have never seen a potato except a hot one in a dish, and I forget whether one uses a spud or a spade to make a hole, but I feel it a patriotic duty to plant potatoes on my front lawn." And out of it all came a little good and much evil.

Once upon a time there was no war, and Suffragists stood on orange-boxes (for there were oranges) and preached a strange doctrine about votes for women. And the more they were told to wash babies and darn socks instead, the more they wouldn't. They *would not* be practical; they *would* theorise on a tub. And now when "that it is just and expedient that the Parliamentary franchise be granted to women" has become a truism, we see that they were not pig-headed, but wise.

Because of them and of those earlier than them who sat thinking and thinking and thinking behind closed doors, the first act in the drama of women's enfranchisement is nearly ended.

What of Act II.? This generation of young men and young women is "carrying on," and carrying on against the tremendous odds of things as they find them, with a heroism beyond all praise, but sometimes also with a loyalty to things as they are, by which they maintain our present security at too great a cost for the future. Some have said we may find ourselves as unprepared for the outbreak of peace as we were unprepared at the outbreak of war. How far this may be true in regard to the problems of reconstruction in general it is not the purpose of this article to consider. But what of the woman's movement? Is the question of its preparedness or unpreparedness of no moment, because, having played its part, it should cease to be when the Reform Bill passes into law? Will Suffragists then best fulfil their duty to their country by continuing to "carry on" in the thousand-and-one schemes based on things as they are which will then call for their help? The temptation to do so will be great; the changes advocated by some revolutionary spirits will seem so catastrophic that many will recoil, and will think they best do their duty by the very act of living, full of devotion and hard work, but intellectually and politically, from hand to mouth. If Suffragists and feminists allow the yielding to such a temptation to seem to them but the performance of a duty, the decadence of the movement will have begun, its death will be near. But, rather, it seems to some of us, it is just born anew. It has passed through its winter, its spring, its summer, and as the superficial observer might think, its time of ripe harvest and final fruition. But the seeds of its new spring are even now being sown.

Talking one day on social problems to a young woman of great ability, preparing to devote her life to some form of social work, I found that she appeared almost wholly ignorant of the history and significance of the Suffrage movement. My surprise was ill-concealed, for she replied to it apologetically, "You see I was still at school when the war broke out." Do we realise what this means? The whole of the young manhood and young womanhood now just reaching maturity were at school when the world seemed at peace—they have never known what it is to live in a community where free political institutions are developing on normal lines. Even their very ideals of patriotism, however noble, lack something; the patriot as doer, as sufferer they know, the eternal beauty of the truth, "gracious and becoming it is to die for one's country," they have learnt all too young. But the duty of hard thinking, of adventurous imaginings, for one's country has as yet hardly seemed to them a duty; almost it has appeared alien to the patriotic spirit. But a patriotism that shirks the responsibility of thought has something of treachery in it.

Let us then conceive of the women's movement in one of its aspects, and that not the least important, as once again in its academic stage, as once again at that point when clear, cold thought, the training and tempering of imagination, become the supreme duty of those who would lead. And let us remember that of the leaders many must be drawn from the ranks of the youngsters who were at school when the Austrian Archduke was murdered.

After the war people will want to be practical; they will want to deal in realities. So be it, tables must be served and many of us must be the servers; but always the eternal paradox remains, that the greatest reality of all is *thought*. Not what we do, but what we think is the realest thing.

Many a thrifty housewife, and keen tradesman, and charitable lady, have seen apples fall to the ground when the wind blows, and all of these have, according to their lights, made excellent use of the fruit for the family, the customer, the poor dependent; but when the man of science just looked at the thing as it fell and left it to rot on the ground while he went into his study, that apple became something eternal. Likewise with the kettle. A kettle of boiling water is a delightful thing, and each of us can think of a thousand uses for it, or, if we are clumsy, we can upset it. But hardly any among us could have upset the whole order of things as we had always known them because of it. But some at least of the women of this generation are called to such high ventures in the sphere of political science. Political equality of opportunity in the franchise seems a simple thing—it is, indeed, a simple application of a universal principle. Now we have to pass on to complex applications of this principle, or, in effect, we must deny it. There is no standing still; we go forward or we go back.

Let us take one concrete example to illustrate the dilemma: "Equal pay for equal work." We have said that. In the storm and stress that will come upon us in the industrial world, there will be three things we can do about that utterance. We may, directly or indirectly, apologise for it; we may say it was but the shrill cry of the youthful fanatic; or we may cling to it as to a shibboleth, and shut our ears to all the batterings of fact against it; or we may enter humbly but confidently upon a thorny but upward path—the path of research, of experiment, of nice adjustments, of recognition of diversities of function, of the "handicaps" special to each sex, until that utterance is filled with a new significance, and plays its part in transforming the world into a fairyland wherein the female drudge and all she means of unhappy marriages, of stunted children, of disease and sin, is not found. And my contention is that much of the effort needed to create this new earth must be of the nature that is characterised as purely academic. For this problem does not stand alone; it is one of many. We need not fear the pale cast of thought, for our imaginations may well be fired by a warm emotion.

The Women's Movement starts on its new career enriched by the experiences of the last three years. Happily, we have learnt much, not only of the horrors that come of wrong thinking, but also of the best in men and women, of the women's courage and power of initiative and skill in new fields of work, and of the men's readiness to sacrifice life, and more than life, to an ideal in which they believe, of their tenderness and their noble simplicity. It is because we know that opportunity brings forth the doer and the deed that we look forward to our high and difficult task with the same enthusiasm as inspired the pioneers of half a century ago.

A. Helen Ward.

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Sidelights on Irish Suffrage.—III.*

Some Differences Between Problems of Poor Law in England and Ireland.

I was chatting one day with a Dublin woman, whose social work brought her into close personal contact with the class of woman who works in factories or relief rooms at a wage averaging, to take a rather high estimate, 9s. a week. I asked why these women, however driven by want, hate the thought of the workhouse. A light smouldered in the sad eyes of my informant, as she replied: "They look on the workhouse as an instrument of foreign tyranny, an institution forced on their country by the foreign oppressor. Its existence is the very badge and sign of their servitude."

The words sent me home to look up Blue-books on the history of Poor Law in Ireland. Then I ceased to wonder, knowing well that imperishable memory of the Celtic race, which never forgets either good or evil, which rewards the former with an undying loyalty, and broods on the recollection of the latter with a bitterness which at times seems beyond heal. The other day a speaker told his audience at a great Sinn Fein meeting that the reason for the suggested delay in the application of the Franchise Bill to this country was the desire of the English people to deprive men in Ireland of their rightful voting power, in order to facilitate enforcement of conscription in this country. Thus, the speaker continued, England will force the young men of Ireland, robbed of their political power, to fight her battles for her while English slackers and shirkers stay at home. I have no doubt at all that the speaker believed what he said: I know only too well that the audience believed him. Some explanation for such an amazing state of mind may be found in the history of Poor Law in Ireland, remembering the light of deep indignation in my friend's eyes as she spoke of the system forced on an unwilling country.

In 1833, just one generation after the Act of Union, an Irish Royal Commission was appointed to consider the widespread misery prevailing, and recommend some scheme of betterment. I fear space will not permit me to enter into the reasons for this. Briefly, the population had almost doubled since 1800, and absolute destitution used to prevail to a great extent during about thirty weeks of the year. The Commission reported in 1836, "making public its opinion that the workhouse system then being devised for England would be entirely unsuitable for Ireland. They gave the following reasons. In England, after unchecked demoralisation by profuse outdoor relief, the workhouse system was devised to make the lazy seek ordinary employment, which could be found. In Ireland, on the contrary, the able-bodied were anxious to work for any wages, even twopence a day, but were unable to obtain any employment." (Address at Annual Conference of C.O.S. in Belfast, 1911.)

The Commissioner's issued an elaborate scheme, some of which has been partially carried out after great waste of time and of public money. Unfortunately, the scheme involved a considerable preliminary outlay, and, as usual, the Government preferred piecemeal expenditure, far heavier in the long run, to an immediate and heavy outlay which would finally have saved—how much, we can scarcely estimate. The Government practically disregarded the Irish Commissioners' report, and sent over an Englishman who had never been in Ireland before. This gentleman spent six weeks in the country, and after this rather brief period of investigation, carried on at a time when railways were unknown, reported that it was desirable to establish workhouses throughout Ireland in order to transform the small farmer into a wage labourer! It is unnecessary to emphasise the fundamental misconception underlying this, or to point out how the whole course of recent land legislation has been an effort to undo the work of earlier years, and to make it possible for the small farmer to become the owner of his land. But the thing was done: the workhouse system was established, and the first building was opened in 1841. Thus a system adapted for England was forced upon Ireland, in face of energetic opposition from the whole body of Irish opinion, expressed, for instance, at a great meeting in Belfast, presided over by a well-known Presbyterian clergyman. The reasons for this opposition are not difficult to discover. In Great Britain, about 75 per cent. of the population is urban: in Ireland, only 25 per cent. Further, the population even of the Irish cities is small compared to that in England; no Irish city contains a population over half a million, and London alone contains more inhabitants than the whole of Ireland. Agricultural conditions are also wholly different. Farms are larger in England. The other day I was questioning a fellow-traveller on the average size of the farms at the present day in County Mayo. "Two hundred acres! Shure, the Burkes and the Ryans, with their hundred acres each, are the lords of the soil thereabouts, there's not another has as much for far enough."

To quote from the Report of the Poor Law Commission of 1909: "The great mass of the population in England are occupied in industrial work and live on daily wages. The great majority of the people of Ireland neither receive a daily wage, nor depend on wage-earners; they are engaged in the cultivation of their holdings. Unemployment in industrial work is the main cause of distress in England; unfavourable weather, diseases in animals and plants, are the ordinary causes of distress in Ireland. . . . The prosperity of an agricultural community is at its height when . . . products are sold at a high price in a quick market, and manufactured articles can be bought at a low price: the prosperity of an industrial community is abounding when they sell at a high price and procure food at a low price. Hence the conditions and interests of England and Ireland are not only dissimilar, but to some extent antagonistic. The conclusion is that any system which suits a purely agricultural population will be unsuitable for a purely industrial population, and that the same system cannot be simultaneously efficacious in England and in Ireland."

These words, quoted, not from a political brochure, but from the considered Report of a Royal Commission, go far to prove the truth of my friend's description of the workhouse as a foreign institution. It is entirely unsuited to the needs of the country, and as I said in my last article, must be abolished if a sane system of Poor Law is to be established. The children should be boarded out, where possible, with their own mothers—a reform which apparently had never dawned on the authorities as practicable until Judge Neil came from America to expound it. In 1916, of 9,202 children on Indoor or Outdoor Relief, 3,769 were in workhouses, not including those in hospital, in certified schools, or in institutions for the blind, deaf, or dumb. Let us have done with all this. Sweep away the whole Poor Law system, and substitute some form of Central Relief Committee in each Union of Parishes, in touch with the local charitable institutions, with the Labour Exchange and with the Health Authority. This Committee will work through Investigators chosen from the ranks of experienced men *and women*. The most important work of this Committee will be to encourage small industries, to keep the people on the land, to promote agriculture, to organise school feeding. To quote again from Miss Day: "When we have firmly grappled with the drink traffic, when we adopt an intelligent attitude towards slum property, when we have raised the school age to sixteen, when we learn that the measure of a nation's efficiency is the measure of its education, when we have done away for ever with the little white slaves called half-timers, we shall have done much to bring the causes of poverty under our control."

Dora Mellone.

WOMEN'S SERVICE APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

This is the second week of the appeal for £500 for Women's Service: £100 has been promised to the Bureau on the condition that another £500 is raised within a month, so that it is literally true in this case that "she who gives quickly gives twice."

If every reader of The Common Cause who has been helped by the Bureau will show her appreciation by sending a small donation, the thing will be done, and we shall have money to carry on our work, and to enlarge it in directions in which it is badly needed.

Donations will be gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Spencer Graves, The London Society for Women's Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN EXHIBITION.

The Englishwoman Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts was opened on Wednesday afternoon by H.R.H. Princess Patricia in the large galleries of the Central Hall, Westminster. It will be open until Nov. 20th. All readers of The Common Cause should make a point of visiting the exhibition, where they will find the best possible opportunity of purchasing Christmas presents that are out of the common.

* See articles in our issues of October 12th and October 26th.

Flower Girls.

It is never a very easy life, especially in winter. Long waits in the cold dark early mornings at the markets, to be followed by long days standing in the mud and slush of the street-gutters with wet and frozen feet. The baskets of blooms, too, for all their beauty, weigh heavily on the tired arms, and the difficulty of meals is an ever present one.

The best place for selling, or it may be the only stands permitted by the police, are not always conveniently near a cheap suitable coffee-house, and thus it often happens that the only available place in which to snatch a hurried makeshift meal is a neighbouring public-house. This, of course, means that the glass of ale or porter, or perhaps even some kind of spirits, takes the place of the more wholesome and sustaining cup of hot cocoa or coffee that would be just as gladly partaken of at first. After a while, the stronger beverages become a necessity, and habits are set up which cannot afterwards be easily broken.

In one great town, at least, the local branch of the British Women's Temperance Association established an office near the flower-girls' beat, at which they were always welcome from seven to ten o'clock at night and on Saturday afternoons. For it is in the evenings, after the small coffee-houses have closed, that their difficulties are the greatest.

Someone was always present in the office during these hours, and the girls (many of whom are, of course, married women) kept dropping in all the time, for a few minutes' rest and warmth, a halfpenny cup of hot cocoa, and bun or bread and butter. They loved the big fire, at which they tried to dry their sodden boots and poor draggled clothes, but they loved more than all the pleasant welcome they received, for they are only too often looked upon as a pariah class, hunted from place to place by the police, to whom no doubt they are sometimes rather a nuisance, and treated as barely "respectable" by the general public.

The people who opened the evening refuge for them above referred to, made no distinction between the married and unmarried mothers among them. Once a month they held a "Party" for the children of the flower-sellers, to which all were invited alike. Such a party it was! Very poor and ragged and rough many of them were; while others, again, were well kept and gently mannered in comparison; but all showed the indefinable but unfailing stamp of forlornness that marks the children whose mothers are never at home in the day-time.

Often the little ones, unguarded in bad weather, would be ill, and they would have to be shut up alone in the house to manage as best they could till the bread-winning mother returned in the evening. No wonder that tuberculosis claims a high percentage of these children.

For the most part, flower-sellers seem to live near together, in poor lodgings or back streets not too far from the markets, for their days are long and tiring, and their nights all too short. They are very good to one another, marriage lines or no marriage lines, but they have a grudge, as a rule, against men flower-sellers. They consider it "too soft a job for a man," though, Heaven knows! there is not much softness about it, and resent the invasion of their trade.

In some towns where there is no free street lavatory accommodation appointed, and where a woman, just because she is a woman, is fined for not observing the decencies of life, much hardship and resultant ill-health obtains among the flower-girls from this cause alone.

They are not so numerous as they were before the war, but they still make the murky streets beautiful in places; and the mother on her way to see her wounded son in hospital, or the boy on leave hurrying home to see his mother, is glad to stop and purchase some of these dear emblems which still speak to us of peace on earth.

Only the other night so pretty a thing came my way that I must record it. It was a chill and drizzling evening, and only a few of the flower-girls, some who simply must wait till they could take enough money home to purchase the children's supper, stood in the sticky mud. They were opposite a shop, from which a subdued light still fell upon their tempting wares, and as I passed I observed a small child standing, bent nearly double beneath a great bundle of slop overcoats—work which has to be fetched from the tailor, sewn, and carried back again, and is still wretchedly paid.

She was gazing with longing eyes at the flowers shining out of the wet and gloom, and knowing that kind of hunger very well myself, I bought her a few golden chrysanthemums.

And then there happened this beautiful thing. One of the depressed-looking girls separated a bunch of feathery Michaelmas daisies from the rest and gave it to the little one "to go with" the chrysanthemums. The child turned to thank her shyly, and then another of the flower-girls came forward with a rose-bud from her basket. The tired faces relaxed into smiles as the delighted child gazed wonderingly at her bouquet, but I—knowing something of the lives of flower-girls and of the high prices of food—turned away with a full heart.

Carol Ring.

The Cambridge Degree Question.

Forcible Appeal from a University Preacher.

The Lady Margaret's Preacher, the Rev. Dr. J. F. Bethune-Baker, Lady Margaret's Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, when preaching the University sermon in commemoration of Benefactors on November 4th, made a powerful plea for the admission of women to the degrees and membership of that university. After alluding to the benefactions in which such women as the Lady Margaret, foundress of Christ's and St. John's Colleges, and the foundress of his own college, the Countess of Pembroke, had borne a conspicuous part, he went on to say that it behoved the preacher on such an occasion "to recall to special memory the services that women have conferred on our society, and to wonder whether, in fact, they are remembered with becoming gratitude." The preacher, he added, "need hardly ask leave to suggest that the time looked forward to by some of those whose names he has to read has come, as it had not come in their days. We cannot now lead in this matter as some of our counsellors in the past would have had us lead. But the arguments that weighed with a large majority of Cambridge men some twenty years ago, have not the weight they then had, in the changed environment of to-day; and we shall not maintain our traditions if we do not adapt our policy in this respect to the new conditions of the world. The place which women now occupy, the new status they are about to have in the order of our national life, we must recognise in the reconstruction of our order. The Lady Margaret had it in her mind to found monasteries, to maintain the old conception of the service of God in Church and State, but she was won to the cause of the new learning through which the new order came, and we shall honour her memory best by welcoming to all the privileges of our society her daughters of the new order of to-day." The two great barriers—privilege of wealth and privilege of sex—must be broken down, "for," concluded the preacher, "if I at all rightly interpret the aims of our benefactors and the inmost intention of our institutions, the cause to which a University such as ours is committed is one in which the highest interests of all human beings are concerned."

It is probably the first time that such an eloquent and courageous appeal for the recognition of the claims of women to an equal share in Cambridge privileges has been made from the pulpit of the University church.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

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LECTURES

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FRIDAY, November 16th, 3.30 p.m.: "OCCULT SCIENCE AND THE EVOLUTION OF MAN." Thomas Smith.

TUESDAY, November 20th, 8 p.m., on "THE GREAT TEACHERS OF HUMANITY"—"THE MASTER JESUS." W. C. Worsdell

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WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN AMERICA.

The good news from New York women has riveted attention on the progress of Suffrage in America. It began where just now it has reached so triumphant a victory—in New York State.

The first convention which considered Women's Suffrage was held at Seneca Falls, in New York, in 1848. From that beginning there grew up an organised women's movement, which gradually became national. Unfortunately, as so often happens, the Suffrage cause was not judged on its own merits. Many Suffrage pioneers were also ardent supporters of slave emancipation, and the unpopularity which for this reason attached to them told against the fortune of Women's Suffrage.

The Civil War put an end to political agitation, and only after the cessation of hostilities women began again to work for the cause. This was the first time that the idea of a Federal Amendment was mooted. A Constitutional Amendment had been proposed to enfranchise the negro, and this gave the idea. In 1868 the first resolution was introduced into Congress for Women's Suffrage by Constitutional Amendment.

Next year the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association were formed. They united in 1890, under the name of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which is now a federation of sixty-three Suffrage organisations in forty-five States. All along, its efforts have been concentrated on educational work, and on securing the submission of Federal and State Constitutional Amendments. The passage of a Federal Amendment is still in the Utopia of Women's Suffrage, though those in touch with the Suffrage movement know how much nearer realisation the dream has come of late. The visible result of the Association's efforts is the Suffrage progress in the separate States.

Wyoming enfranchised its women in 1869, and was followed by Colorado in 1893. Then came Idaho, Utah, Washington, California, Arizona, Oregon, Kansas, Alaska, Nevada, and Montana. Now New York is added to the list. This does not only mean that in some or all of the States there is a bare majority in favour of Women's Suffrage. The procedure for the amendment of State Constitutions differs in almost every case, but always provision is made that the Constitution of a State cannot be altered hurriedly, or, indeed, until it is quite evident that the feeling of the State as a whole is in favour of the alteration. The recent amendment in New York has been twice passed by the Legislature, and ratified by a State Referendum. Where Women's Suffrage has got through, there is sound conviction at its back.

It is impossible to forecast the future of the Suffrage cause in America. There, as everywhere, the progress of the war monopolises thoughts and activities. At the same time there, as everywhere, women, by their unflagging energies, are bringing about a truer realisation of their value as citizens. When the Federal Amendment is again submitted to Congress, it is probable that it will meet with a more friendly reception than it has ever done before.

INEZ M. FERGUSON.

Some Novels by Women Writers.

THE TREE OF HEAVEN. By May Sinclair. (Cassell. 6s. net.)

Novels whose action takes place before 1914 have now all become "historical." They are acquiring the kind of glamour that mediæval romance used to have for one in childhood. The only "contemporary fiction" is that which deals with the last three years. There are war books, which we can hardly bear yet—even when they are very convincing—perhaps least of all when they are very convincing—and there are still more unbearable books, in which the war, which is grinding our souls and bodies to pieces, is treated as an incident or comes in as a *Deus ex machina*. "The Tree of Heaven" belongs to none of these categories. It begins in 1895, and at first seems historical, but we cannot quite let ourselves go to enjoying the pleasant description of the easy lives led by an upper-middle class family in those happy times because we know that the book is bound to go on till 1914. It is, in fact, a novel of this generation, and the war comes crashing into it, as it has crashed into all our lives. Miss Sinclair does not, indeed, picture it quite in this way. The war is to her not a crushing calamity but an opportunity for her characters to realise themselves. The last section of the book is called "Victory." "Victory," she explains through the mouths of one of her characters, "is an attitude of mind," and it is clear that she means us to feel that in life, and in death, her principal characters all attain to it. It is difficult to judge of this part of the book; it is too near our own emotions. It is difficult not to resent the cleverness, difficult to gauge the sincerity and quite impossible to let one's self go to the sentiment. The book has inevitably been compared with "Mr. Britling Sees it Through." It differs from it because it is more about individuals and less about social groups. It can more justly be compared with Mrs. Hamilton's "Dead Yesterday" or St. John Ervine's "Changing Winds." But whereas in "Dead Yesterday" all the characters we are meant to admire are pacifists, and no one who supports the war is really sincere, in "The Tree of Heaven" there are no sincere pacifists—in fact, there are no pacifists at all. This is unconvincing, especially as we cannot help feeling that in real life Michael probably *would* have been a conscientious objector.

However, the book is all interesting and the earlier part of it is very good indeed. Frances, the ideal wife and mother, or rather Mother and wife, carries conviction at once. We can see her sitting under the ash tree in her beautiful garden at Hampstead putting decorative stitches into a frock for the baby; watching the children being prepared for their party with quiet satisfaction, and thinking of her own mother and sisters as "Granny and the Aunties." The children too are very well described, and as for the cats—no one who is a cat lover can afford to miss any of Miss Sinclair's books. The feelings of the child, Nicholas, over the death of his cat are so true to nature that they made at least one reader who recollected a similar incident feel quite shattered. "The Aunties" and other trying relations are equally well described. The atmosphere of the militant suffrage movement and of the moderns in art and literature is suggested without sympathy, but with much skill. The dialogue throughout is admirable, and, in spite of the rather irritating system of paragraphing, Miss Sinclair's way of writing always gives one pleasure. In fact, for all those who enjoy contemporary fiction, "The Tree of Heaven" is a book to read.

"CHRISTINE." By Alice Cholmondeley. (Macmillan. 6s. net.)

"Christine" is a vivid picture of Germany or rather of Prussia in the months immediately preceding the war, and at the time when the war began. It harmonises so well with the image of Germany that has gradually been formed in our minds during the last three years—partly by the reports of those who have been there but far more by Germany's own actions—that one would be glad to know whether it is a reflection of that image, or whether it is independent testimony. It is given in the form of letters from an English girl, a musical student in Berlin between May and August 1914, and it is all the more effective because Christine is represented as a sympathetic and friendly girl, ready to like and be liked, and moved to amazement rather than indignation by the hostility she meets with in the repellent boarding house in which she takes up her abode. She wants to like Germany,—at first because of her art, and afterwards, also, because she is engaged to a charming young officer, who is an exception in his country and his class. Frau Berg and her boarders, the aristocratic family with whom Christine afterwards stays, and the atmosphere of the Berlin streets at the time of the declaration of war are all described with much art, and the book succeeds in giving us a nightmare feeling which we should probably think unreal, if we had not had it before and if it were not, alas, already associated in our minds with facts which most of us find it impossible to doubt.

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All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager,* The Common Cause, *14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Wednesday. Advertisement representatives, S. R. Le Mare and Miss Frances L. Fuller (West End).*

Hail Columbia!

Last Friday November 9th, I received from Mrs. Chapman Catt President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the following joyful cable:—

"New York won by ninety-four thousand majority; soldier vote yet to hear from; cannot change result."

Our impression over here, judging from the voting of Canadian soldiers, is that the "soldier vote" will only add to the already magnificent majority. The N.U.W.S.S. had the honour of doing a little bit of propaganda among the New York soldier voters on this side of the Atlantic, by publishing a leaflet showing the growth of Women's Suffrage in the United States since the pioneer State of Wyoming led the way in 1869, and calling on the New York soldiers who had come to Europe to fight for the liberty of other peoples, to take the opportunity of voting for the liberty of their own people.

Whether our little effort was fruitful or not we shall probably never know; but it is not a bad rule to go on sowing seed in faith, knowing that a harvest is sure to come from it, whether it can be seen by our eyes and gathered by our hands or not.

Those who have followed American politics and the progress of our cause across the Atlantic, will probably agree that this victory in New York is the most important which has ever been gained in the United States. New York is the largest and most populous of all the States. It therefore controls more Presidential votes than any other. So it is not for nothing that it is called the Empire State. It is also one of the most difficult in which to conduct a popular fight. Owing to its large alien population, propaganda had to be carried on in eleven different languages! The voting on November 6th represents the first big victory for Suffrage won on the Eastern seaboard. It moreover reverses the adverse vote given two years ago. This is probably due to what Lord Milner last week called "the extraordinary movement of the spirit in consequence of the war, a scrapping of prejudices and a ploughing up of people's minds."

However this may be, the New York victory improves the prospect, already good, of Women's Suffrage being adopted in the United States by Federal amendment instead of by the painfully slow process of fighting State by State all through the forty-six. There are enormous difficulties in the way of changing the Constitution. Consequently, there have only been fifteen Federal Amendments to the United States Constitution since it was framed in 1787. Ten of these were adopted at once, and might almost be regarded as part of the original Constitution; the eleventh and twelfth were corrections of minor defects which had shown themselves in the practical working of the Constitution; the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth were consequent on the Civil War and the abolition of negro slavery (see Bryce, The American Constitution, Vol. i., pp. 483-4). Lord Bryce in his famous book attributes the very small number of amendments to the deliberately planned obstacles devised by the framers of the Constitution. A Federal Amendment requires a two-third majority in each House, and even then does not become law until it has been ratified by the Legislature of three-fourths of the States. But Lord Bryce points out that these difficulties are greatly enhanced by the party system. What one party proposes the other as a matter of course (as in this country), opposes. But these are not ordinary times. The Great War has fused the party system, and men of all parties both here and in America are acting together as never before. Readers of *Jus Suffragii*, the international Women's Suffrage newspaper, will not need to be reminded that in September last women succeeded in securing the appointment of a Suffrage Committee in the House of Representatives. There was a stiff fight over this

appointment, and the motion in its favour was carried by a non-party vote of 181 to 107. "The Senate Suffrage Committee of nine members, from as many States, and from all parties, had by unanimous consent reported in favour of a Federal Amendment." (*Jus Suffragii*, November, 1917.) At the last Presidential election, candidates representing every party, supported the principle of Women's Suffrage—Mr. Hughes, by Federal Amendment; Mr. Wilson, by the slower process of State by State. It is not improbable that Mr. Wilson has advanced from this position since his election last year, and that Mrs. Catt had therefore very good ground for the prophecy she made at a great meeting in Saratoga last month when she said, "Whether New York wins or loses, I predict, and will stand by the prediction, that within two years all the women in the United States will have the vote."

In August I had a letter from Mrs. Catt in which she expressed the earnest hope of American Suffragists that our Bill would have passed into law before September, so that our victory might have helped theirs in the arduous campaign which lay before them. I replied that there was no chance or even possibility of this, but that I was nevertheless very confident and cheerful about our prospects. Now, instead of our victory helping theirs, theirs will help ours. Our Bill finished its Committee stage in the Commons almost to a day at the same time that New York State was won. And on the same day as I received Mrs. Catt's cable, quoted at the beginning of this article, I read in *The Times*: "The Government have every intention of passing the Reform Bill through both Houses in time to secure the Royal Assent before Christmas."

Millicent Garrett Fawcett.

The Endowment of Motherhood.

A Counter-Plea.

Several articles have recently appeared in The Common Cause in support of the endowment of motherhood or of childhood, and it is perhaps time that the arguments against these schemes should be set forth.

At the outset, let it be understood that Lady Selborne's view (expressed in your issue of November 2nd) that in this connection, widows form a class requiring special and separate consideration, is unquestioningly accepted. The following remarks therefore have reference only to those cases in which a man is, or should be, the supporter of his family.

Most of the supporters of this scheme of State endowment for maternity fail to explain exactly what they mean by it. In its widest sense this proposal might be taken to imply State support for every mother until all her children are old enough to earn their own livings. In its narrowest sense—and it seems more likely that this is what many of the advocates of the scheme have in their minds—it might mean a system of birth-subsidies or birth-bonuses. Whichever interpretation is, however, adopted, the result of its application remains the same, for it merely implies a shifting of the financial burden of fatherhood, to a greater or less extent, from the shoulders of the father on to those of the State. We thus have a system which is likely to undermine the sense of responsibility when marriage is undertaken and parenthood is incurred, and which would also, in all probability—as Lady Selborne justly points out—act as a direct encouragement to idleness and thriftlessness on the part of undeserving members of the community.

From a system with these tendencies, mothers in general are not likely to benefit, even although a few individual cases might occur in which relief would be experienced. From the greater physical and moral responsibilities of parenthood which a mother must always bear, no one can relieve her, and we contend that to relieve the male parent of his very small equivalent of paying the financial cost is neither just in principle nor likely to be beneficial in result.

Another point to consider is, if fathers in general are to be granted this form of outdoor relief, under the guise of maternity endowments, who is it that will pay the cost? The already overburdened taxpayers may, for purposes of considering the question under discussion, be classified on the one hand as men and women, or on the other as parents and the childless. In the first case, women as a whole will be taxed in order to relieve men from one of their most primary and binding duties—a condition of affairs as much opposed to feminist principles as it is possible to imagine—and in the second case we have those members of the community who have been unfortunate enough to have no share in the joys of family life, penalised by additional taxation in order to ease the paths of those whose circumstances in life have been more fortunate than their own.

In spite of any objections that are raised against this measure, there are those who will still hold strongly to the conviction that to give birth to a new life is to perform a service to the community which the State should acknowledge as such and recompense accordingly. To those who hold this view it cannot be too emphatically replied that, as regards population, there is no virtue in mere numbers apart from quality, and whether or not the new-born life is to be an asset to the nation becomes known, in the majority of cases, not at the time when the maternal duties are only being entered on, but long years after when they have been completed. Students of genetics know only too well that there is also far too large a minority of cases in which heredity has, from the very beginning of the new life, set on it an indelible curse, and in which the sins of the fathers are visited with inexorable severity on the new generation. The woman who has consented to be the mother of such offspring has performed the worst service to her country that it is possible to render, and any legislation calculated to encourage marriage and facilitate parenthood among stocks of impaired heredity will be disastrous in its results to posterity. In this connection it should be noted that the prospect of maternity endowments would carry less weight among steady industrious people earning a regular wage, than it would among the thriftless, the idle, and the intemperate. Let those, therefore, who glibly talk of each new birth as a service performed to the State, think well and watch long and carefully before they pronounce their verdict of "Well done," for even in cases where the prospects are bright at the beginning, the mother is on her trial as regards State service rendered, through all the years of childhood and adolescence, during which she must give bodily care and moral training. Not until she has launched into the outer world a son or daughter having a fair share of the bodily fitness, mental efficiency, and moral worth which go to make a good citizen, and which alone are national assets, can she be said to have performed the functions of motherhood in such a way as to deserve well of the State.

I beg therefore to submit that the measure under discussion, while being of benefit only in a few cases, and to a limited extent, is likely to have deleterious results of a very far-reaching and serious nature.

(1) *Morally*, it will undermine the sense of responsibility among parents in general, and among fathers in particular.

(2) *Financially*, it will cast a very heavy and unjust additional burden of taxation on those of the community who are not parents.

(3) *Racially*, it will tend to encourage reproduction among stocks of unsound heredity and low moral character.

In conclusion, I beg leave to enter a plea for a broader outlook and a more far-sighted policy in dealing with this and similar measures. In considering large numbers either of things or of people, it is averages that are of importance rather than individual cases, but this type of legislation—ignoring this principle—acts as the modern representative of the indiscriminate charity of a past day, and bestows its gifts on individuals (not necessarily deserving) without taking into account whether by so doing any cause is served which will benefit the community as a whole. What we have to ask ourselves, therefore, is not: How many needy cases will such a measure relieve? but: What will be the ultimate effect of such legislation on people in general, both in the immediate future and in the time to come? Will it foster right tendencies and encourage a right spirit? How far does it tend merely to bestow material benefit, regardless of other considerations? Will it help or will it hinder humanity in its march on the long and toilsome road towards a higher ideal and a more perfect stage of development? Only by careful consideration, and by approaching the subject from the ethical and the racial standpoints, as well as from the social and the political, can we hope to find true answers to questions such as these.

A. Lamont, B.Sc.

THE POWERS OF FOOD COMMITTEES.

Lord Rhondda has made an Order conferring on Food Control Committees in England and Wales the power of enforcing his Orders and prosecuting for offences against them. The existing powers of local authorities in this respect will continue in all cases for the present; and provision is made for special cases in which a local authority and a Food Control Committee agree that the former body should take the chief responsibility in the matter.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss Violet Eustace.
Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary)
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.
Secretary:
Miss Edith Stopford.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.
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Deputations to the Home Secretary.

On Wednesday, November 14th, a Deputation of women of weight and standing in the country waited on the Home Secretary to urge him to consent to the Amendment to the Representation of the People Bill, conferring the Local Government franchise on the wives of men on the Local Government Register. It was introduced by Mrs. Fawcett, and its members included the Duchess of Marlborough (President, Women's Municipal Party), Miss Rathbone (Liverpool City Councillor), Countess of Selborne, Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttleton, Lady Henry Somerset, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon (President N.U.W.W.), Miss Kilgour (Women's Local Government Society), Mrs. Oliver Strachey (N.U.W.S.S.).

Lady Aberconway, Mrs. Sidney Webb, and Mrs. Creighton, who were also to have taken part in the deputation, were unavoidably prevented from doing so. Miss Mary Macarthur, Miss Llewelyn Davies, and Dr. Marion Phillips had also agreed to be members of it, but as a second deputation was arranged, composed of members of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and of the Joint Committee on Industrial Women's Organisations, they elected to act as members of the latter deputation. This second deputation was introduced by Mr. Adamson, Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and was received by Sir G. Cave at the same time as the former.

Memorial from Distinguished Men.

The following letter from men of weight and learning has also been sent to the Prime Minister and to the Home Secretary:—

Sir,—We, the undersigned, urge His Majesty's Government to consent to an amendment of the Representation of the People Bill, Clause IV., Subsection 3, for the purpose of enabling a married woman to vote in Local Government elections upon her husband's qualifications as occupier.

The case for this amendment seems to us unanswerable, and it was very well received by the House on the Committee stage of the Bill when the Government expressed their willingness to consider the proposal again on the Report stage.

Those of us who have been supporters of the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to women feel that there is scarcely an argument in favour of giving the Parliamentary vote to a married woman that does not tell with even greater force in favour of her claim to vote at local elections; while those of us who have opposed the Parliamentary Enfranchisement of women nevertheless fully concede their right to a voice in local elections upon questions such as Public Health, Housing, Education, and Child Welfare. Yet, as laws relating to these matters are usually permissive, the married woman, if excluded from the Local Franchise, will be deprived of the power of enforcing the administration of the laws on these subjects. By the Act of 1914, she will be able to stand for election to county and town councils, but not to vote for them, while in Parliamentary matters she may help to elect, but may not be elected.

Married women, and those who believe in the value of their influence on public life, cannot be expected to accept so glaring an anomaly. It follows, therefore, that if the proposal we make is rejected, the Bill will no sooner pass into law than a demand will spring up for its amendment as regards the Local Franchise, and the value of the Bill as putting an end, for a considerable period at least, to a long-vexed controversy, will be greatly impaired.

Whatever our view on the Parliamentary Suffrage, we should deeply deplore anything of this kind.

We urge this amendment, not only in the interests of married women themselves, but of the whole community, since we believe that their enfranchisement for local purposes will give a valuable stimulus to the activities of local authorities in matters of social reform, and especially of child welfare. In view of the present unnecessary waste of child life this is a matter not only of national, but of imperial concern.

We are, Sir,
Yours faithfully,

(Signed)
Horace Plunkett, D.L., P.C., LL.D.; E. Lyttelton; Frederick Pollock, D.C.L.; George Adam Smith, D.D., LL.D.; C. P. Scott; Sidney Webb; Muir Mackenzie; Henry Scott Holland, D.D., D.Litt.; J. L. Garvin; J. Scott Lidgett, D.D.; Thomas Barlow, K.C.V.O., F.R.S., F.R.C.P.; B. Seebohm Rowntree; Plunket; C. Oxon (Bishop of Oxford); A. J. Gardiner; W. Arbuthnot Lane, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S.; Edward H. Busk; Gilbert Murray, LL.D., D.Litt.; W. L. Courtney, M.A., LL.D.; Edward Lincoln (Bishop of Lincoln); J. Arthur Thomson, M.A., Hon. LL.D.; Robert Smillie; Arnold Bennett; R. J. Campbell; William Archer; Pontypridd; G. Bernard Shaw; Karl Pearson, F.R.S.; Aylmer Maude; Winfrid C. Truron (Bishop of Truro); John Galsworthy; George Cadbury, J.P.; Aberconway; Horace Annesley Vachell; John Clifford, M.A., D.D., B.Sc.; Harold Spender, M.A.; N. G. Lyttelton, G.C.B.; I. H. Ely (Bishop of Ely); Herbert Warren, K.C.V.O., B.C.L.; W. Carlile; W. Chance, M.A.; F. C. de Sumichrast; Tenterden; Malcolm Morris, K.C.V.O.; A. G. Asaph (Bishop of St. Asaph); James M. Wilson (Canon of Worcester); C. W. Saleeby; Harold Begbie; H. H. Johnston, G.C.M.G.; Courtney of Penwith; W. Wedderburn; J. T. Grein; Ronald M. Burrows, D.Litt.; A. W. Chapman; Basil Brown; H. Percy Boulnois; A. W. Mayo-Robson, C.V.O., C.B., D.Sc., F.R.C.S.; Alfred Hughes, M.A.; John A. Hobson, M.A.; J. F. C. Welldon; Greville Macdonald, M.D.; Laurence Housman; Edward Bonner; F. de Selincourt, M.A., D.Litt.; J. F. Bethune-Baker, D.D.; W. M. Geldart, M.A., B.C.L.; W. F. Cobb, D.D.; J. H. Muirhead; J. Theodore Dodd, M.A., J.P.; J. J. Mallon; Marcus Hartog, M.A., D.Sc., F.L.S.; Hon. F.R.H.S.; Holford Knight; Edw. Winton (Bishop of Winchester); Bedford Fenwick, M.D.; Robert J. Parr; Sidney Coupland; Hugh Lewis; D. Baker; J. Sodor and Man (Bishop of Sodor and Man); T. N. Kelynack, M.D., M.R.C.P.; W. M. Ramsay, K.L.D.; H. G. Stanger, K.C.; Archibald Ean Campbell (Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway); J. R. Wakefield (Bishop of Wakefield); James Heard, M.A., LL.D.; D.Sc.; A. M. Langdon, K.C.; Herbert Jacobs; Henry Nevinson; Theodore Petriburg (Bishop of Peterborough); J. M. Chelmsford (Bishop of Chelmsford); W. A. Appleton; Stewart D. Headlam; Thomas Whiteside (Archbishop of Liverpool), R.C.; Huyshe Worcester (Bishop of Worcester); F. J. Liverpool (Bishop of Liverpool); John Kensington (Bishop of Kensington); A. H. D. Acland; Frederic L. Dearne, D.D. (Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney).

The 1917 Franchise Fund.

The ready response to Mrs. Fawcett's appeal for funds for the N.U.W.S.S. has been most gratifying. Over £700 has already been received. The list of contributors up till the middle of last week is printed on page 387.

In view of the very important work now in hand, we urge all our friends to give, and to give quickly. It is worth while!

REMOVAL OF HEADQUARTERS AND OF "THE COMMON CAUSE."

The offices of the National Union and of The Common Cause are being taken over by the Government, and fresh quarters must be found as soon as possible. We hope to announce our new address next week.

INSURANCE OF MARRIED WOMEN.

The text of the Bill to amend the Insurance Act has now been issued. It is provided that the sum retained by the Commissioners from the weekly contributions of insured women shall be one penny and one sixth instead of 1½d. A Women's Equalisation Fund is to be formed for the purpose of assisting approved societies to meet their liabilities in respect of the sickness claims of women. From this fund the approved societies will receive a sum not exceeding 8s. a year in respect of each of the married women who are members.

Money is to be granted each year by Parliament for the Fund, but it is not clear from the text of the Bill whether the fund is also made up from the women's contributions, or from the contributions of both men and women, or whether the grant covers the whole amount.

A Special Risks Fund is also to be established, to which a sum of £150,000 a year is to be voted by Parliament, beginning with 1917. From this sum deficiencies of societies are to be made good where due to abnormal rate of sickness or any other cause beyond the control of the society.

For maternity benefit contributions in respect of persons entering into insurance after the passing of the new measure must be paid for 42 weeks, instead of 26 weeks as at present. Under the original Act the payment of 26 weekly contributions entitled the insured person to 10s. a week sickness benefit in case of men and 7s. 6d. a week in the case of women. Under the new Bill it is proposed that until 104 weekly contributions are paid the benefit shall be 6s. a week in the case of men and 5s. in the case of women.

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13th November, 1917.

I gladly avail myself of the courtesy shown me by the Editor of THE COMMON CAUSE to write a personal letter of thanks to the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE who have so generously built, equipped and provided the running expenses for a year of a Hut for the W.A.A.C. in France.

At the opening of this Hut the enthusiasm and gratitude of the girls was boundless, and the remark most often heard was that "it was such a real bit of home."

This is the second Hut the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE have given to the Y.W.C.A. for the rest and recreation of our splendid Women War Workers. I, as a suffragist, am proud of what the members of the N.U.W.S.S. have done to help us in our truly National work for women.

Yours truly,

E. Picton-Turbervill

Chairman of the National Appeal Committee.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

Ascot.—A rummage sale was held by the Ascot Society last week. The stock was much smaller than usual, but good prices were cheerfully given; the profits therefore were low. A sum was retained for incidental expenses of the Society, donations sent to The Common Cause hut in France, and to Mrs. Harley's Memorial.

Chester.—On Friday, Nov. 9th, the Annual Meeting was held at Haswell's Café, Foregate Street. Miss Tomkinson took the chair, and Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brown came from Liverpool to address an attentive audience of prospective electors upon "The Vote, and how to use it." Collection £1 3s. 6d.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

NOVEMBER 16.

Birmingham—Members' Meeting, at Grand Hotel—Mrs. Osler, "The Future of the N.U." 5.30 p.m.

London—24, Park Lane, W.—Hostess: The Countess Brassey—Chair: The Hon. Mrs. Astor—Speaker: Mrs. Oliver Strachey—Subject: "The Importance of Using the Vote"—Tickets to be had from 58, Victoria Street, S.W. 6 p.m.

Marylebone—Members' Meeting, 9, Queen Anne Street, W. (by kind permission of Mrs. Luff)—Speaker: Miss Helen Ward—Subject: "The Future of the N.U.W.S.S." 2.30 p.m.

Streatham—Drawing-room Meeting, at 70, Mount Nod Road, Streatham Hill, S.W.—Hostess: Mrs. Phillips Jones—Chair: Miss Jetley—Speaker: Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher—Subject: "Women in Industry, Reconstruction, and the Use of the Vote." 5 p.m.

NOVEMBER 18.

Birmingham—Soho Hill Men's Movement—Mrs. Ring. 3 p.m.

NOVEMBER 21.

London—Special Council, to discuss the future of the National Union—Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 3 p.m.

Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street. 3—5 p.m.

NOVEMBER 23.

Sunderland—Mrs. Arthur Johnson, At Home—2, Gray Road—Discussion: "The Future of the National Union"—Chair; Mrs. Mundella. 7.15 p.m.

NOVEMBER 30.

Cambridge—Members' Meeting, 20, Green Street—Speaker: Miss G. Jebb, Lecturer in Economics, Newnham College—Subject: "Careers for Educated Women"—Chair: Mrs. Heitland. 3 p.m.

LONDON UNITS.

NOVEMBER 19.

Bognor—St. Michael's—Afternoon At Home—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield. School Meeting in the evening—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield.

NOVEMBER 20.

Chichester—The Palace—At Home—Chairman: Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chichester—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield. 2.30 p.m. Bishop's Otter School—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield. 8.30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 22.

Hove—6, St. Aubyn's Gardens—Mrs. Beddington, At Home—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield. 5 p.m

NOVEMBER 23.

Eastbourne—Saffron's Rooms—Lantern Lecture—Speaker: The Hon. Evelina Haverfield. Tickets 2s. and 1s. 3 p.m.

NOVEMBER 26.

Leytonstone—8, Preston Road—London Society for Women's Suffrage (Walthamstow Branch)—Speaker: Miss Curwen. 3.30 p.m.

Coming Events.

A Conference on a Ministry of Health, arranged by the National Union of Women Workers, will be held on Thursday, November 22nd, in the Council Chamber, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W., at 11 a.m.; followed in the afternoon, at 2 p.m., by a Conference on Citizenship.

Next week, at the "Old Vic." (Royal Victoria Hall, Waterloo Road), "The Tempest" will be given on November 19th, 21st, and 23rd, at 7.45. Matinées, November 21st, at 2.30; and 22nd and 29th, at 2. Opera, "Daughter of the Regiment," 22nd and 24th, at 7.45. Matinée, "Rigoletto," 24th, at 2.30.

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[We regret that, owing to pressure on our space, we are obliged to hold over the list of donations received at the Scottish Headquarters of the Hospitals. The full list will be published next week.]

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[Continued on page 388

Continued from page 387.

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